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REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to amend claims 1-61 as indicated above.

Claims 6-8, 11 and 17-59 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims 6-8, 11, and 17-59 in a continuation or divisional application.

Claims 1-5 and 12-14 have been amended and claim 60 has been added. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Support for claim 1 which recites a "method for detecting a retroviral genetic recombinant encoding a functional gag polypeptide and a functional pol polypeptide" can be found, for example, on page 31, lines 15-18 and page 7, lines 20-25.

Support for claim 1 which recites "introducing into a first cell a trans-viral vector system" can be found, for example, on page 37, Example 8, lines 13-20 and page 37, lines 23-26 of the specification; support for "culturing the first cell to allow viral particle formation" can be found for example on page 37, lines 23-27; support for "transducing a population of cells with a population of viral particles of step b), wherein members of said viral particle population may comprise said recombinant" can be found, for example on page 38, lines 1-10; and support for "providing in trans to said population of cells at least one helper function comprising an envelope polypeptide or a pseudotype thereof" can be found, for example, on page 8, lines 1-5; page 31, lines 22-23 and in original claim 11.

Support for claim 3 that recites a "trans-lenti vector system" can be found for example, on page 37, lines 24-30 of the specification.

Claims 2, 4 and 12 were amended to correct antecedent basis. Claims 13 and 14 were amended to clarify the claim.

Claim 5 was amended and recites the genetic elements facilitate reverse transcription and integration. Support for this amendment can be found on page 6, lines 7-10.

Claim 60 was added. Support for claim 60 can be found, for example, in original claim 59.

No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper.

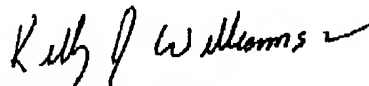
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However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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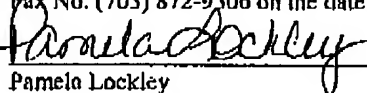
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Pamela Lockley

February 6, 2004

Date

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